

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9-22, 27-34, and 38-40. The Examiner, however, allowed claims 23-26. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 7, 8, and 35-37 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims each contain allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims.

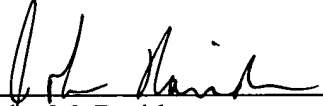
Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, by the present Response, Applicant amends independent claims 1, 9, 13, 17, 19, 27, 28, and 29 to further clarify the claimed subject matter and cancels claim 37 without prejudice. Particularly, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter originally recited in claim 37. Further, based on the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance presented in the Office Action, Applicant has also amended claims 9, 13, 17, 19, 27, 28, and 29 to generally incorporate the allowable subject matter originally recited in claim 37. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-36 and 38-40 will remain pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the foregoing amendments and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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